

# The City of Galena Park

## City Commission Meeting

Date: October 06, 2015

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Galena Park was held at City Hall in Council Chambers, Tuesday evening at 6:00 P.M. on October 06, 2015.

Present were:	Esmeralda Moya	Mayor
	Danny Simms	Commissioner
	Cruz R. Hinojosa, Jr.	Commissioner
	Maricela Serna	Commissioner
	Juan Flores	Commissioner
	Mayra Gonzales	City Secretary
	Robert Pruet	City Administrator
	Jim DeFoyd	City Attorney

Item # 1- Mayor Moya called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item # 2- Mr. Robert Clowers gave the invocation

Item # 3- Comments from the audience

A citizen commented about his concerns with the water bill. Mayor Moya translated. The citizen received his water bill and is being charged \$604.00 if he pays on time, if he doesn't pay on time it is \$664.00. The citizen doesn't want to hear that he has a leak and he has been checking his own meter. Mayor Moya called on Ms. Tojuana Cooper, Water and Sewer Superintendent. Mayor Moya continued to translate. The citizen stated that on his meter he has 52,350, since they changed it out. The citizen would like for the Mayor to see what he has on his bill. Mayor Moya asked Ms. Cooper if she would like to look at the numbers. Ms. Cooper stated that she would be happy to look at the numbers, but first of all she is not in charge of billing and second, Mayra and herself do coordinate when there are problems. Ms. Cooper stated that she was sorry she was not familiar with that one at the moment, but she would be happy to look into it. Mayor Moya translated. The citizen wanted to know why, if he has a garage apartment, does he have to pay double, and he needs it in writing. Last time he missed work to take care of the situation, but this time he is not going to miss work. Ms. Cooper stated whether he has a single family home or an apartment.... Mayor Moya asked the citizen if they had a garage apartment or a single family home. The citizen stated that it was vacant. Ms. Cooper stated that the city has over 3,000 customers and had she known he was going to be there, she would have been prepared, and she is sure that Mayra would have also. Ms. Cooper stated that Mayra is in charge of billing and she is in charge of meters. Mayor Moya stated for her to look into it and give him something in writing. Mr. Delatorre stated that he knows exactly what he is talking about, because he has a garage apartment himself and he gets charged double. Mr. Delatorre stated that he knows at one time they just came in and did it that way and he doesn't know if there is an ordinance that did it that way. Mr. Delatorre stated that it can be empty for up to four months at a time and he still gets charged double. Mayor Moya stated that they would look into it and put something in writing.

A citizen greeted the council and stated that he had been out of town for two weeks and never had a problem. Mayor Moya stated that he was one of the lucky ones. The citizen stated that now somebody went into his property and took his lawn mower. The citizen stated that he went to the police station and made a report. The citizen stated that he wanted to talk to the Mayor about his concerns and that the city definitely needs more security. Mayor Moya stated to Commissioner Hinojosa that was his department and they would look into it. The citizen stated that Commissioner Hinojosa knows him, everybody knows him. Mayor Moya asked the citizen if he had stated his



concern to Commissioner Hinojosa before. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he had not. The citizen stated that he wanted to say thank you to Galena Park for cleaning up the streets. The citizen also commented on the time capsule that was done and commented on how everyone took a group picture. The citizen also stated that there was going to be another event that night. Commissioner Flores stated they were going to have National Night Out, but he would speak more about that during announcements. The citizen stated that it was something new for Galena Park. Mayor Moya stated that she thought they had them every year. Commissioner Flores that it is the 4th year they do one in their part of town and this year they are adding two more and many more things are happening. The citizen stated good job. Mayor Moya stated it was good to know that they were such good friends.

Mr. Robert Clowers, a citizen, stated that over on Pugh a contractor replaced a sewer line, and asked if the Mayor had any idea how much it cost. Mayor Moya stated that would be Commissioner Simms department. Commissioner Simms stated that he had no idea what the cost was. Ms. Cooper stated that she could answer that. Ms. Cooper stated that a couple of weeks ago they discovered a sink hole there and they had Lopez do the pipe bursting there and she believes it was a \$30,000.00 project. Ms. Cooper stated there was a request for the exact amount.

Mr. Jack Brown, a citizen, stated that he had a request and hopes that they can get it for him. Mr. Brown stated that the gateway project has been a thorn on his side, but he always wondered how much money we were spending from the city on that and how much we are actually getting from grants. Mayor Moya stated that it was \$98,000.00 in grant money. Mr. Brown asked how much we were responsible for. Mr. Pruett stated that it was \$25,000.00. Mayor Moya stated that it was \$26,000.00 if she recalls correctly from that meeting. Mr. Brown stated that he has been prowling around through different cities and asking them what their share was, and most of them have been totally by grant. Commissioner Flores stated that they have been working with a group of grant writers now and hopefully they will be able to more money. Mr. Brown stated that he appreciated that, but he spoke to someone in Jacinto City who was covered by just the grant money and they actually have two monuments over there. Mr. Brown stated that he has the same old complaint. Mr. Brown stated his concern on the traffic at McArthur Elementary school. Mr. Brown stated a concern about not being able to get through the street when so many cars are coming from different directions. Mayor Moya called on Commissioner Hinojosa. Commissioner Flores stated that he has been working on that already. Mayor Moya stated for him to let Commissioner Hinojosa speak about it then he can speak. Mr. Brown stated they needed to work something out with the school to see if they can get the kids picked up in the back. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he had not been out there, but there are times when he tries to stay away from school zones. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that Commissioner Flores is working on getting one way streets for Our Lady of Fatima, during their peak hours, and the middle school. Commissioner Flores stated that he got a call from concerned parents from Galena Park Middle School and the Elementary School about the flow of traffic. Commissioner Flores stated that he also got calls from McArthur Elementary and Our Lady Fatima. Commissioner Flores stated that he is working with the city attorney on a new ordinance to take care of the traffic flow. Commissioner Flores stated that if anybody had any concerns to see him after the meeting and hopefully by the next meeting they will have that ordinance up. Mr. Brown stated that one of the problems at MacArthur is that there is a no parking zone on the south side and in bearably someone wants to stop and wait for their children to come out there instead of going through the mess big mess, and he doesn't blame them, but when you do that you have triple blockage. Commissioner Flores stated that after the meeting he will get with him so they can include his concerns into the study.

Mr. Jerry Patton, a citizen, addressed the council and the citizens. Mr. Patton stated that he had a concern about eight fire hydrants that are surrounding the Galena Park High School. Mr. Patton asked when was the last time these fire hydrants were kept. Mr. Patton stated not only do we have the safety of the children of Galena Park, but there is the liability of the City of Galena Park as well. Mr. Patton asked if they have a plan of action to testing the fire hydrants and do they have an



execution point. Mayor Moya stated that her understanding of the last time that they were checked was in 2004. Mayor Moya stated that in terms of a plan she will turn it over to Mr. Hinojosa. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that because they found out that there were several that were not working, they developed a method of understanding between the fire and the water department. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that the fire department is going to go out there and test them and see which ones are faulty and need replacing and they turn it over to the water department and they replace them. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that last month they may have seen black bags over them, and those were the ones that were tested and needed to be repaired and replaced. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that is something they put in place that was not there before. Mr. Patton asked if they can provide him with some kind of documentation, strategically the eight ones that have been tested properly by a competent person. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he was sure someone from the fire department or the water department can provide them with that. Commissioner Simms asked Ms. Cooper if she knew those had been tested. Ms. Cooper stated that she wanted to clarify that what Commissioner Hinojosa stated about the water and fire department is correct. Ms. Cooper stated that they had a memorandum of understanding between the water department and the fire department. Ms. Cooper stated that the fire department test them, and it is her understanding that they have completed testing all the fire hydrants in Galena Park, but she would have to confirm that with Chief Gregory. Ms. Cooper stated that if they find there is a problem, they will turn a work order into her so that she can have it repaired. Ms. Cooper stated that they have several that are pending repair possibly because of a part or a shut down. Ms. Cooper stated that they may have seen a couple weeks ago a notice of low water pressure and that was a shut down. Ms. Cooper stated that they also had two shut downs that week, but they are working on them. Ms. Cooper stated that on that specific area she is not able to speak on that, they would have to follow up with Chief Gregory. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he will follow up with Chief Gregory and he will get that information to him. Mr. Clowers asked if the fire plugs were numbered and if they have some kind of documentation. Ms. Cooper stated that Chief does have a numbering system and she has a work order system with the numbers.

Mayor Moya asked if there were any more comments or concerns. No other comments.

Item # 4- Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting on September 15, 2015. Commissioner Hinojosa moved to approve the minutes of regular meeting on September 15, 2015. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 5- Consider ratifying accounts payable through October 6, 2015. Commissioner Flores moved to approve ratifying accounts payable through October 6, 2015. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Item # 6- Consider approving resolution R10-2015- Setting the 2015 Tax Rate. Mr. Defoyd read the resolution aloud. Commissioner Flores moved to approve resolution R10-2015- Setting the 2015 Tax Rate. Commissioner Simms, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried. Mayor Moya stated that she understands the taxes were lowered. Mayor Moya stated that it was a good thing the taxes were lowered.

Item # 7- Consider approving Resolution R11-2015- Setting tax exemptions for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Mr. DeFoyd read the resolution aloud. Commissioner Simms moved to approve Resolution R11-2015- setting tax exemptions for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 8- Consider approving the 2014-2015 fiscal year end budget amendments. Commissioner Simms moved to approve the 2014-2015 fiscal year end budget amendments. Commissioner Serna, 2nd...Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.



Item # 9- Consider authorizing the City Secretary to re-advertise for the sale of six city vehicles. Commissioner Flores moved to approve authorizing the City Secretary to re-advertise for the sale of six city vehicles. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Commissioner Hinojosa asked how many times can they vote to re-advertise for the sale of the city equipment. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that last time the bid came in too low. Mayor Moya stated that it was only one bid and they need more than one bid. Mr. DeFoyd stated that it was up to the city commission. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that if they keep doing this and they keep getting one bid over and over. Mayor Moya stated then they can make a decision then, but the problem last time was that they just got one bid and there was a confusion with the second bid. Ms. Gonzales stated that there was only one bid, and the Mayor was confusing it with the gateway project bid. Commissioner Simms stated that it was \$200.00 per vehicle. Mayor Moya stated it was \$1500.00 or so for all six vehicles. Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 10- Consider authorizing the City Secretary to re-advertise for bids for the gateway project construction. Commissioner Flores moved to approve authorizing the City Secretary to re-advertise for bids for the gateway project construction. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 11- Consider approving change order No. 2 for an increase in the contract time for 30 calendar days for the waterline rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Simms moved to approve change order no. 2 for an increase in the contract time for 30 calendar days for the waterline rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup>... Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 12- Consider approving change order No. 3 for a decrease in the contract amount of (\$20,340.00) for the waterline rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Serna moved to approve change order No. 3 for a decrease in the contract amount of (\$20,340.00) for the waterline rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion carried.

Item # 13- Consider approving estimate no. 7 in the amount of \$80,346.25 & estimate no. 8 & final in the amount of \$38,311.35 for the water rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Simms moved to approve estimate no. 7 in the amount of \$80,346.25 & estimate no. 8 & final in the amount of \$38,311.35 for the water rehabilitation phase 1 project. Commissioner Serna, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 14- Consider changing the employment status of Joshua Sturgeon from part time to full time- Grounds Maintenance. Commissioner Flores moved to approve changing the employment status of Joshua Sturgeon from part time to full time- grounds maintenance. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 15- Consider the part time employment of Glenda Lauderdale- Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Serna moved to approve the part time employment of Glenda Lauderdale- Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Simms, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Item # 16- Consider approving the full time employment of Mark Broussard- Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Flores moved to approve the full time employment of Mark Broussard- Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Hinojosa, 2<sup>nd</sup>...Vote: 5 Ayes...Motion Carried.

Mayor Moya asked for announcements.

Commissioner Simms announced that Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at the football stadium is the Galena Park Homecoming Game. Commissioner Simms stated that they have a very young team and they haven't done a lot of winnings, but they are fun to watch. Commissioner Simms stated that they can purchase their tickets early at the Galena Park High School front office or at the athletic



administration. Commissioner Simms announced that senior citizens can get a gold card which can get them into all of the Galena Park lsd events for free.

Commissioner Hinojosa stated that speaking of Homecoming, he spoke to the principal and the school board president about possibly having Homecoming in Dement Field in Galena Park next year. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that the school board president was in favor of it, and according to the principal dement field only holds 2,000 people and they expect at least 10,000 people at tomorrow night's game. Commissioner Hinojosa stated that he has not given up yet on having a homecoming game in Galena Park next year.

Commissioner Flores stated that he wanted to thank everyone that was involved with celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Galena Park. Commissioner Flores stated that there will be a plaque coming soon so that everyone can see who took part in that and hopefully one of us is still around when it is opened. Commissioner Flores stated that it was National Night Out and a lot of people are talking about crime in the area and it is very important that you get out and meet your neighbors. Commissioner Flores stated that they can all work together on cutting crime down by taking a look at what is going on. Commissioner Flores stated for everyone to come out to the events, they have one going on at the Dairy Queen parking lot, another at 8<sup>th</sup> and Graham with a pony ride for the kids, and another one at the fire station in Woodland Acres. Commissioner Flores stated to come on out and meet your neighbors and work on cracking down on crime.

Mr. Jerry Patton, a citizen, announced in regards to the homecoming, at Galena Park High School, on Friday at 8:00 a.m. they will be serving refreshments for all of the Galena Park alumni. Mr. Patton stated that at 9:00 a.m. they were going to have the pep rally at Galena Park High School Auditorium for all the ex to attend.

Ms. Dorothy Harding, a citizen, announced that on Saturday they were going to have an all class reunion at the Alvin Baggett Community Building at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Flores stated that at the last meeting someone had a concern about the street lights being out. Commissioner Flores stated that Commissioner Hinojosa and himself drove around parts of the city and found about 18 street lights that are out. Commissioner Flores stated that he didn't know how dark it actually was on some of the streets. Commissioner Flores stated that he is currently speaking to CenterPoint and see if they can establish a program to take care of the areas that are really dark in Galena Park and he will have more information for them in the next weeks to come.

Commissioner Simms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Flores, 2nd.... Vote: 5 Ayes... Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 6:36 P.M.

  
MAYRA GONZALES

  
APPROVED